

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-16

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R 021030Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3051

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONGEN TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT,ELAB,MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN UNION LEADER COMMENTS ON POLITICS AND
LABOR

1. SUMMARY: UMT DEPSEC GEN ABDERRAZAK AND LABOFF HELD
WIDE-RANGING TALK SEPTEMBER 31. ON SAHARA QUESTION,
ABDERRAZAK DESCRIBED UMT/UNFP POSITION AS UNCHANGED,
AND TERMED KING'S RECOURSE TO ICJ AS "DEFEAT FOR REGIME".
ABDERRAZAK ADMITTED UNFP AND ABDALLAH IBRAHIMAT POLITICALLY
ISOLATED AS NEVER BEFORE BUT SAID PARTY WILL NOT "SELL
OUT" TO KING AS HAVE ALL OTHERS. NEARLY ALL WORKERS ARRESTED
IN RECENT STRIKE IN FES HAVE BEEN RELEASED, BUT FES REMAINS
HARD NUT FOR UMT TO CRACK BECAUSE OF ISTIQLALI INFLUENCE.
ABDERRAZAK BELIEVES ISTIQLAL AND UGTM (ITS TRADE UNION ARM)
ARE NOW CLEARLY IN GOVERNMENT CAMP AND, AS RESULT, WILL
BENEFIT FROM PATRONAGE AND AGAINST INMOMMENSURATE
INFLUENCE. AN INCREASE IN UMT AGITATION CAN BE EXPECTED
AFTER RAMADAN. END SUMMARY.

2. UNION MAROCAINE DU TRAVAIL (UMT) DEPSEC GEN
MOHAMED ABDERRAZAK AND LABOFF HELD WIDE-RANGING TALK
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EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 31. DISCUSSING SPANISH SAHARA,

ABDERRAZAK EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ISSUE HAS BEEN COOLED OFF. HE SAID THAT NO MOROCCAN WANTS TO FIGHT FOR THE SAHARA, AN "UNPROFITABLE" PIECE OF REAL ESTATE EXCEPT FOR PHOSPHATES WHICH, HE SAID, SPAIN AND MOROCCO WILL END UP EXPLOITING JOINTLY IN ANY CASE. ABDERRAZAK COMMENTED THAT DESERT AREAS ARE CAPABLE OF EXPLOITATION BUT NOT DEVELOPMENT, CITING EXAMPLES OF TARFAYA AND IFNI.

3. ABDERRAZAK FREELY ADMITTED THAT ABDALLAH IBRAHIM'S UNFP AND THE UMT ARE THOROUGHLY ISOLATED IN THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH REGIME ON SAHARA CAMPAIGN. IBRAHIM, IN SPITE OF SEVERAL DEMARCHES BY FONMIN, STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPAIGN, AND MOST RECENTLY REFUSED TO GO TO UNGA. ABDERRAZAK SAYS IBRAHIM WILL "SELL OUT" AS HE SAYS BOUABID AND ISTIQLALIS HAVE DONE.

4. UMT LEADERS SHARPEST IRE RESERVED FOR ISTIQLALI'S, WHO HE CLAIMS REPRESENT NOTHING BUT VESTED INTERESTS OF FASSI BOURGEOISIE. ABDERRAZAK CLAIMS GOM FINANCED RECENT ISTIQLALI CONGRESS, INCLUDING EXPENSES EAST EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS. ABDERRAZAK WAS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF ALLEGED GOM STIPEND OF 20,000 DIRHAMS (4500 DOLLARS) PER MONTH TO FAMILY OF ALLAL EL FASSI. HE BELIEVES ISTIQLAL PARTY AND UGTM, ITS TRADE UNION ARM, ARE NOW FIRMLY IN GOVERNMENT CAMP AND WELL PLACED TO GAIN PATRONAGE AND INFLUENCE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, ABDERRAZAK DID NOT ASCRIBE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO RECENT ARRESTS IN FES (RABAT 4661 NOTAL). HE BLAMED ARRESTS ON INFLUENCE OF FASSI PATRONAT UPON LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND THAT NEARLY ALL THOSE ARRESTED HAD BEEN RELEASED. HE ADDED THAT FES REMAINS HOSTILE TERRITORY FOR UMT AND THAT THIS SITUATION IS NOT LIKELY TO IMPROVE.

6. ABDERRAZAK SAID THAT UMT'S USUAL POST-RAMADAN CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER WAGES AND BENEFITS WILL BE HELPED, THIS YEAR AS LAST BY SHARP INCREASES IN PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS.
BRUBECK

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